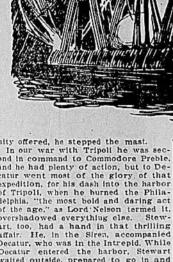
CHARLES STEWART "OLD IRONSIDES" AMERICA'S LUCKIEST IF NOT GREATEST COMMODORE

A S ANDREW JACKSON Won the Greatest Land Fight of the War of 1812 After the Signing of the Treaty of Peace, So Did Parnell's Grandfather Win the Greatest Sea Fight of That War After Peace Had Been Agreed Upon-The Famous Encounter of the Constitution with the Levant and Cyane.

BY RICHARD SPHLANE.

In a day of wonderful ships and remarkable sailormen, Charles Stewart gave an exhibition of seamanship unequaled in naval warfare. With one ship he fought two ships, and not only did he capture the two, but so cleverly did he handle his own craft that never were the enemy able to deliver a broadside. He has been termed the lucklest, if not the greatest, of the commodores of that glorious 1812 period, but to skill more than to luck his success may be ascribed. He never lost a ship and he never lost a fight. His fame rests largely on one contest, that between the Constitution and the Levant and cyane, but that one fight was a classic. It is strange that the two greatest





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was at fault, and declared that victory would have been theirs had they supported each other properly. The two men quarreled until it seemed they would come to blows.

Stewart sat and listened to them until he got tired. Then he said: "Genellemen. cease this blekering. If you wish I'll put the two of you back on your ships and we'll fight the battle over again."

They looked at Stewart. So far as they could discover he was serious in his offer. They ceased repreaching each other and began to wonder what sort of individual this was they had been fighting.

Stewart took the Levant and Cyane into Porto Praya. The day after he reached there a British squadron arrived off the harbor. There was a light fog, and some of the British prisoners were the first to discover the squadron. They tried to keep the fact from the Americans, but one of the British midshipmen's indiscreet remark was heard by a licutenant of the Constitution, and word was sent at once to Stewart. The captain was shaving.

"Beat to quarters and make ready to go out and attack," said the captain, continuing his shaving.

The order was obeyed. Then the



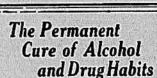
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